India Loco Running Staff Association, New Delhi on reinstatement of dismissed Loco Running staff and other railway workers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The memorandum demands reinstatement of dismissed loco running staff and for implementation of various judgments of the Central Administrative Tribunals in that regard. 294 staff have already been reinstated as a result of Court orders. 349 staff remain dismissed/removed. Government have decided not to reinstate them. However, court cases filed by some of the 349 staff involve important questions of law and these cases are pending in Supreme Court.

Converting Metre Gauge into Broad Gauge Tracks Throughout the Country

321. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to have only broad gauge tracks throughout the country by converting metre guage tracks in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the present total length of metre gauge tracks in the country;

(c) the allocations made to convert the the metre gauge tracks into broad gauge tracks; and

(d) by when the conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 23,419 kms.

(c) Rs. 559.54 crores in 1992-93.

(d) It will depend on availability of resources in coming years. It is, however, proposed to convert 6000 kms. MG line into BG during the 8th Plan period.

Privatisation in Railways

322. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railways may privatise all services except freight; passenger traffic" what appeared in 'the Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 13th April, 1992;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which this would improve Railways' operational and financial structure over the present one particularly the transfer of the various manufacturing units to the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For the present it has been decided to privatise only the catering services on Indian Railways in phases.

A task force is also going into the question of 'own your wagon scheme' by major railway users.

Action Plan for development of Railway System

323. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up an action plan for the development of the Railway system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be allocated for the same for the 8th Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Every

year annual corporate plans are drawn up for development of the railway system.

(b) Eighth Plan has not yet been finalised. The Annual Plan for 1992-93 provides for an investment of Rs. 5,700 crore.

रेल इंजन प्रौद्योगिकी का हस्तांतरण

324. **श्री विश्वासराव राघराव पाटिल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि स्वीडन की फर्म आसिया ब्राउन बोवेरी चित्तरंजन लोकोमोटिव्स को प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरित करेगी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार चित्तरंजन लोकोमोटिव्स में ऐसे इंजिनों का निर्माण कब से शुरु करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) (क) जी हां, परन्तु फर्म स्विटजरलैंड की है स्वीडन की नहीं।

(ख) ए बी० बी०, स्विटजरलैंड से पूर्णत: एसेम्बल किए गए 16 रेल इंजनों तथा सी० के० डी०/एस०के०डी० अवस्था में 14 बिजली रेल इंजनों का आयात करने का प्रस्ताव है। सी०के० डी० रेल इंजनों को ठेका दिए जाने की तिथि से 3-4 वर्षों की अवधि के भीतर चि०रे०का० में एसेम्बल कर लिए जाने की संभावना है।

तत्पश्चात तकनीकी सहयोग समझौते के अन्तर्गत इन रेल इंजनों का देश में निर्माण करने के लिए कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

Principle of costing of Rail fare for passengers.

325. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the principle of costing used for deciding the railway fares for passengers; and

(b) the costing for suburban railway fares of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and non-suburban passengers during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Railway fares are decided keeping in view the need to reduce losses on passenger services and the capacity of passengers to pay.

(b) Does not arise.

Pune—Bombay V. T. Pragathi Express

326. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pune—Bombay V. T. Pragathi Express is not economically viable;

(b) what is the occupancy of various classes in 2125 Up and 2126 Down train;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the Lonavala passengers requesting for the halt of the train at Lonavala station;

(d) if so, what is Governemnt's reaction thereto;

(e) which are the other trains stopping at Lonavala on Pune—Bombay V. T. route; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to enhance the quota of seats at Lonavala station for these trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Train-wise expenditure and earnings are not maintained.

(b) The occupancy of the train is 80 to 95 per cent for Ist Class and 75 to 86 per cent for IInd Class.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Examined but not found justified.

(e) A statement is attached. (*See below*).

(f) There is no such proposal at present.